

E. R. - 7-8539/A

is recognized in Section VII of Public Law 110, 81st Congress, 1st Session (1949) which exempts the Agency from the provisions of any other law requiring the publication or disclosure of this type of administrative information.

I would like to emphasize, however, that the foregoing does not prevent a continuing review of classified material falling into certain categories such as correspondence, general administrative letters and memoranda, and a few specific types of periodic publications; namely, those which do not cite sources. Automatic downgrading stamps have been and are being used widely in permissive instances. The Agency classification control network has been established to control the application of original classifications and to perform the function of reviewing classified material for the purpose of downgrading or declassification. Guidance on a continuing basis is furnished to the control network by the CIA Classification Control Officer and also through the medium of Agency regulatory material.

The following comments are offered on your two specific suggestions:

1. Revision of EO 10501 to provide for an annual review of material for declassification purposes appears desirable provided certain types of information pertaining to national security which retain their sensitivity for a long period of time be exempted. A requirement calling for an annual review of this type material would, in our opinion, impose on this Agency a costly and time-consuming administrative workload, without expectation of discovering much declassifiable material. It is recognized that this reasoning may not apply to other agencies.

2. Revision of EO 10501 to incorporate a broader method of automatic downgrading or declassification than that permitted by Section 4(a) would, in our opinion, tend to result in a compromise of intelligence sources and methods. I am sure you recognize the utmost importance we place upon the protection of this type of information.

With respect to unnecessary classification and over-classification, the former has presented no problem. We have, however, encountered certain difficulties with over-classification. In many of the cases reviewed a CONFIDENTIAL classification would have been sufficient rather than a SECRET

classification. Compliance with the subscription of Section 1 that "unnecessary classification and over-classification shall be scrupulously avoided" is carried out through the Agency's classification control system which provides a continuing review of classification procedures and practices, including training and guidance on a constant basis.

Should you desire any further details or information on this important subject, I shall be glad to designate a representative to meet with your committee.

Sincerely,

Signed

G. F. CARROLL
Lieutenant General, USAF
Acting Director

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